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FM AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 8453
RUEDK/AMEMBASSY DAKAR 0221
RUEHRO/AMEMBASSY ROME 149
INFO RUCNSAD/SADC COLLECTIVE
RUEHXR/RWANDA COLLECTIVE
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUCPDO/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RUZEJAA/JAC MOLSWORTH RAF MOLESWORTH UK
RHMFISS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHNGEN GE

UNCLAS KINSHASA 000776

SENSITIVE
SIPDIS

STATE PASS DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION
USID FOR OFDA: MSHIRLEY and AFR/EA

E.O. 12958: N/
TAGS: [EAIR](#) [ECON](#) [PGOV](#) [CG](#)
SUBJECT: GDRC INVITS NTSB TO ASSIST WITH AIR SERV CRASH
INVESTIGATION

REF: KINSHASA 725
KINSHASA 349
KINSHASA 37

¶1. (SBU) Summary: The GDRC Civil Aviation Authority (AAC) extended an invitation verbally through Econoff for the NTSB to assist in the investigation of the September Air Serv crash near Bukavu (Ref A).

The NTSB investigator hopes to bring the Flight Data Recorder back to the U.S. for analysis as the first step in the investigation. The AAC is also currently hosting a conference to draft proposals for updated legislation to civil aviation code in the DRC. En Summary.

¶2. (U) The Director of the GDRC Civil Aviation Authority (AAC), Richard Nyanguile, told Econoff on September 17 that the NTSB investigator has been invited to assist in the September 1 Air Serv crash investigation. The investigator has been named the NTSB's U.S. Accredited Representative, and who is currently in Nairobi, also assisted with the April 15 Hewa Bora crash (Refs B and C). He expects to arrive in Kinshasa the week of September 22, and hopes to begin the investigation by transferring the Flight Data Recorder (FDR) to the NTSB for analysis. Nyanguile said he agrees with the NTSB's plan of action and that the FDR is currently in Kinshasa.

¶3. (SBU) The 9-seat Beechcraft 1900 had crashed on a steep slope near Bukavu, making access to the crash site difficult. UN peacekeepers finally reached the site on September 4 by getting lowered from helicopters in slings. The peacekeepers helped to evacuate all seventeen bodies and successfully recovered the FDR. The AAC waited two weeks before inviting the NTSB, a sign the GDRC may be wary of any reports that could further damage the DRC's already poor aviation safety record.

¶4. (SBU) Nyanguile is currently hosting a conference September 18-19 to work on proposed legislation to update the Congolese civil aviation code. Nyanguile said the DRC is using obsolete aviation laws inherited from the colonial era. The NTSB investigator will have the opportunity to share his views on the outcome of this conference when he meets with the AAC.

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